

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: CS/HB 1139 Nursing Licensing Fees
SPONSOR(S): Health Care Regulation Policy Committee, Roberson and others
TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 2030

	REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1)	<u>Health Care Regulation Policy Committee</u>	<u>7 Y, 0 N, As CS</u>	<u>Holt</u>	<u>Calamas</u>
2)	<u>Health & Family Services Policy Council</u>	<u>23 Y, 0 N</u>	<u>Lowell</u>	<u>Gormley</u>
3)	<u>Human Services Appropriations Committee</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
4)	<u>Full Appropriations Council on General Government & Health Care</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
5)	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The Florida Center for Nursing (FCN) was established to address issues of supply and demand for nursing, including recruitment, retention, and utilization of nurse workforce resources. Licensed nurses are asked to voluntarily donate to the FCN as part of their initial licensure and licensure renewals.

The bill requires the Department of Health to provide nurses with a summary of the work of the FCN, a link to the FCN website, and a statement informing nurses that the FCN's work is funded in part by donations from nurses. The department must provide this information at the time of initial licensure and renewal, prior to the opportunity to donate.

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state or local government.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2009.

HOUSE PRINCIPLES

Members are encouraged to evaluate proposed legislation in light of the following guiding principles of the House of Representatives

- Balance the state budget.
- Create a legal and regulatory environment that fosters economic growth and job creation.
- Lower the tax burden on families and businesses.
- Reverse or restrain the growth of government.
- Promote public safety.
- Promote educational accountability, excellence, and choice.
- Foster respect for the family and for innocent human life.
- Protect Florida's natural beauty.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Background:

The Board of Nursing and Licensure

As of June 2009, there were 314,564 licensed nurses (14,211 ARNPs, 229,658 RNs and 70,695 LPNs).¹ Of that total, 245,249 are active in-state licensed nurses,² about 29,460 are in inactive or in delinquent status, and 39,855 are out-of-state, active military, or retired licenses.³ Licensure renewals are broken into 4 groups; two groups renew each year, one during February-April and the other during May-July. Licensure renewal is currently conducted online and by paper.

The Florida Center for Nursing

In March 2001, the Florida Nurses Association convened a legislative summit of nursing leaders in Tallahassee. Participants represented nurse executives, nurse educators, and nurse advocates from across the state all of whom were members of one or more of the following groups:

- Florida Nurses Association;
- Florida Hospital Association;
- Florida Organization of Nurse Executives;
- Deans and Directors of Nursing Education Programs; and
- Florida Board of Nursing

At the summit, the concept of a Florida Center for Nursing (FCN), based on North Carolina's Center for Nursing, was proposed and received unanimous support. In 2001, the Legislature established the FCN⁴ to address issues of supply and demand for nursing, including recruitment, retention, and utilization of nurse workforce resources.⁵ The Legislature specified that the FCN will repay the state's investment by providing an ongoing strategy for the allocation of the state's resources directed towards nursing.⁶

¹ Department of Health, Division of Medical Quality Assurance, Annual Report: July 1, 2008-June 30, 2008.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ Chapter 2001-277, F.S.

⁵ Section 464.0195(1), F.S.

⁶ *Ibid.*

The FCN is governed by a policy-setting board of directors. The board consists of 16 members appointed by the Governor, with a simple majority of the board being nurses who represent various practice areas. Other members include representatives of other health care professions, business and industry, health care providers, and consumers. Currently, the board members must meet the following criteria:⁷

- Four members are *recommended* by the President of the Senate, at least one must be a registered nurse recommended by the Florida Organization of Nurse Executives and at least one must represent the hospital industry and is recommended by the Florida Hospital Association;
- Four members *recommended* by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, at least one must be a registered nurse recommended by the Florida Nurses Association and one must represent the long-term care industry;
- Four members *recommended* by the Governor, two must be registered nurses;
- One nurse educator recommended by the Board of Governors who is a dean of a College of Nursing at a state university;
- Three nurse educators *recommended* by the State Board of Education, one of whom must be a director of a nursing program at a state community college

The member appointments are staggered and last for 3 years, and no member may serve more than two consecutive terms.

The primary goals of the FCN are to:⁸

- Develop a strategic statewide plan for nursing manpower in this state by:
 - Establishing and maintaining a database on nursing supply and demand, including current supply and demand and future projections.
 - Selecting from the plan priorities to be addressed.
- Convene various groups representative of nurses, other health care providers, business and industry, consumers, legislators, and educators to:
 - Review and comment on data analysis prepared for the center.
 - Recommend systemic changes, including strategies for implementation of recommended changes.
 - Evaluate and report the results of these efforts to the Legislature and others.
- Enhance and promote recognition, reward, and renewal activities for nurses in the state by:
 - Promoting nursing excellence programs such as magnet recognition by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.
 - Proposing and creating additional reward, recognition, and renewal activities for nurses.
 - Promoting media and positive image-building efforts for nursing.

Funding

The FCN has been funded through a contract with the Department of Health. The funds come from annual appropriations as well as voluntary contributions, particularly from nurses. The Florida Board of Nursing is required to include on its initial and renewal application forms a question asking the nurse to voluntarily contribute to funding the Florida Center for Nursing in addition to paying the fees imposed at the time of licensure and licensure renewal. Any revenues collected from nurses over and above the required fees are transferred from the Medical Quality Assurance Trust Fund to the Grants and Donations Trust Fund within the Department of Health to solely to support and maintain the goals and functions of the center.⁹

⁷ Section 464.0196, F.S.

⁸ Section 464.0195(2), F.S.

⁹ Section 464.0195(3), F.S.

The FCN has received the following funds:

Fiscal Year	Voluntary Contributions	Legislative Appropriation
2008-2009	\$2,542*	450,000 GR
2007-2008	9,970	480,000 GR
2006-2007	13,589	500,000 GR
2005-2006	9,198	250,000 GR
2004-2005	12,278	250,000 Tobacco
2003-2004	40,307	250,000 Tobacco
2002-2003	35,326	

*The balance as of February 28, 2009.

According to the FCN they have also obtained some external funding. In December 2007, FCN received \$75,000 from Blue Cross / Blue Shield of Florida, Inc. to establish the FCN's Retention & Recruitment Funded Project Initiative. In November 2008, FCN was awarded an \$85,000 grant through the AARP Center to Champion Nursing in America to assess the current nurse workforce data capacity in 30 states and development of minimum nurse supply, demand, and education datasets. In addition, FCN has submitted a grant application for a grant offered by the Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida, Inc. The grant award is \$280,897 and the date of the award is from September 2009 to August 2011. The goal of the project is to maximize the use of simulation technology in the preparation of new and continuing education of current RNs in Florida to address our nursing shortage by increasing the nurse supply through increased production and retention.¹⁰

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill requires the Department of Health to provide nurses with a summary of the work of the FCN, a link to the FCN website, and a statement informing nurses that the FCN's work is funded in part by donations from nurses. The department must provide this information at the time of initial licensure and renewal, prior to the opportunity to donate.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Amends s. 464.0195, F.S., relating to the goals of Florida Center for Nursing.

Section 2. Provides that the bill takes effect July 1, 2009.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

¹⁰ Email dated March 19, 2009 from the Executive Director of the Florida Center for Nursing on file with the Health Care Regulation Policy Committee staff.

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not applicable. This bill does not appear to: require counties or municipalities to spend funds or take an action requiring the expenditure of funds; reduce the authority that counties or municipalities have to raise revenues in the aggregate; or reduce the percentage of a state tax sharing with counties or municipalities.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

On March 25, 2009, the Health Regulation Policy Committee adopted a strike-all amendment to House Bill 1139. The amendment requires the Department of Health to provide nurses with a summary of the work of the FCN, a link to the FCN website, and a statement informing nurses that the FCN's work is funded in part by donations from nurses. The department must provide this information at the time of initial licensure and renewal, prior to the opportunity to donate.

The analysis is drafted to the committee substitute.